

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT,  
1875.

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ANNUAL REPORT

—ON—

THE HEALTH

OF THE

WHITWORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL

DURING 1896.

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—BY—

ALEXANDER WELSH, M.D., Whitworth.  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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Whitworth :  
HOWARD, PRINTER AND STATIONER.



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# THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Consists of the following Members :

CHAIRMAN—MR. WILLIAM MYCOCK.

MESSRS. THOMAS SMITHSON,  
JOSEPH RUDMAN,  
W. E. WHITWORTH,  
WILLIAM LAW,  
B. F. STUTTARD,  
WILLIAM HOLT,  
WILLIAM B. BEARD,  
ARTHUR TURNER,  
JOHN BLACKBURN,  
JAMES WILKINSON,  
J. H. TODD.



# Whitworth Urban District Council.

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## MEDICAL OFFICERS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1896.

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GENTLEMEN :

I have the honour to submit to your consideration the Annual Health Report of the Whitworth Urban District Council, according to instructions received from the Local Government Board.

The area of the Whitworth Urban District Council is 6,200 acres.

The estimated population for the year is 10,100.

### BIRTHS.

During the year there were 218 births registered, 11 more than 1895, viz: males 99, females 119; giving a birth rate of 21·5 per 1000. The rate for preceding years being—

1884.....	26·3	1890 .....	21·0
1885.. .....	26·3	1891.....	25·2
1886.....	28·2	1892.....	23·0
1887 .....	22·4	1893.....	24·1
1888 .....	20·6	1894.....	23·3
1889.....	23·0	1895.....	20·4
1896.....		21·5	

The natural increase of the population by excess of births over deaths is 36, for 1895—21.

## DEATHS.

During the year 182 deaths were registered, viz.:—  
 males 96, females 86, giving a death rate of 18 per 1000.  
 The rate for preceding years being as under:—

1884 .....	14·6	1890.....	16 0
1885 .....	16·5	1891.....	26 7
1886 .....	17·8	1892.....	16 7
1887 .....	16 5	1893 .....	18·1
1888 .....	17 6	1894 .....	14 3
1889 .....	13·8	1895 .....	18·4
1896 .....		18 0	

The following table gives the ages at which the deaths occurred:—

Under 1 year .....	39	} 67
One and under 5 years .....	28	
Five years and under 15 years .....	10	} 115
Fifteen years and under 25 years .....	8	
Twenty-five years and under 65 years .....	72	
Sixty-five and upwards .....	25	
		<hr/>
		182    182

The following table also gives the deaths during the years:—

	1893	1894	1895	1896
First quarter .....	43	42	57	46
Second quarter ..	39	33	54	45
Third quarter .....	45	28	31	39
Fourth quarter ..	50	37	44	52
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		177	140	186
				182



## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

We have had 39 deaths under One year—two more than the preceding year.

The proportion of deaths under One year to 1000 births is 214·2; for 1895 it was 178·7; for 1894, 127·1; and for 1893, 177·9.

The following table shows the deaths under One year for previous years:—

1886 . . . . .	42	1891 . . . . .	59
1887 . . . . .	39	1892 . . . . .	34
1888 . . . . .	46	1893 . . . . .	42
1889 . . . . .	51	1894 . . . . .	29
1890 . . . . .	37	1895 . . . . .	37
1896 . . . . .	39		

The total infantile death rate under Five years is equal to 30 per cent.

## CAUSES OF MORTALITY.

Measles 1; Scarlatina 8; Diphtheria 2; Croup 8; Whooping Cough 6; Enteric 4; Diarrhœa 3; Rheumatic Fever 1; Erysipelas 2; Phthisis 7; Broncho-Pneumonia 37; Heart Disease 7; Injuries 2; other diseases 94

## ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

The Zymotic death rate for the past year I regret to report is a high one, and is due to an increase in the number of deaths from Scarlatina, Whooping Cough, and Croup, the rate being 2·2 per 1000. The rate for preceding years being:—

1882 . . . . .	3·5	1889 . . . . .	1·8
1883 . . . . .	1·6	1890 . . . . .	0·6
1884 . . . . .	2·8	1891 . . . . .	3·07
1885 . . . . .	1·4	1892 . . . . .	1·2
1886 . . . . .	2·05	1893 . . . . .	1·8
1887 . . . . .	3·01	1894 . . . . .	0·51
1888 . . . . .	1·2	1895 . . . . .	1·4
1896 . . . . .	2·2		

## SMALL-POX.

I have great pleasure in being able to state that this disease has been absent.

## MEASLES.

Ceased to be notifiable after April 30th. 1893, but one death has been registered as occurring in the Whitworth Ward in November.

## SCARLATINA.

Ninety cases have been notified as against 82 last year, and 8 deaths registered. The epidemic generally has been of a mild character, and a considerable number of the cases have been allowed to run about or go to school. The subsequent peeling of the skin having revealed the true nature of the disease. Nearly every case has been personally investigated as to its origin and probable cause, etc. I have, moreover, periodically communicated with the Schoolmasters in the various districts and received from them valuable mutual co-operation. Notwithstanding our united efforts we have been unable to stamp out the disease. As stated we have had 8 deaths and they have occurred as under :—

One in Whitworth Ward	in	February.
One in Facit	„	May.
One in „	„	June.
One in Whitworth	„	July
One in „	„	November.
Two in „	„	December
One in Shawforth	„	December.

## WHOOPIING COUGH.

Six deaths have been registered from this disease :—

One in Healey Ward.  
Three in Whitworth Ward, and  
Two in Shawforth Ward

## CROUP AND DIPHTHERIA.

There is a marked increase under this heading this year as compared with the last year. In last year's report I had the pleasure of noting the entire absence of Croup, and only one fatal case of Diphtheria. The first case of Diphtheria reported was that of a child living at Gertrude Street, Shawforth, (on January 3rd). Nothing could be ascertained as to the origin, etc., of the disease. On the 20th of January a case of Croup was reported at Ending, ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant) with a negative result also as to its source, etc. On the 12th of February a very doubtful case of Diphtheria was notified at Birches. On February 24th a case of Croup was notified again at Shawforth. On March 17th a case of Diphtheria was reported at Gertrude Street, Shawforth. On the 20th a case at 288, Market St., Shawforth. On the 25th a case of Diphtheria at Factory End, Facit, and on the 3rd of April another case of Diphtheria at 392, Market St., Shawforth. In my Diary I find the following entry, "Note all the above cases of Diphtheria and Croup have their milk from different farms." The last case was one of Diphtheria reported on the 12th of April at Long Acres Farm, Facit. The sporadic or scattered nature of the disease made it very difficult—indeed impossible—to definitely say what the exact source was, still it was satisfactory to be able to say that it was not due to the milk supply.

## TYPHOID FEVER.

Seven cases have been notified and 4 deaths registered. One in Facit Ward in April, One in Whitworth in August, One in Shawforth in August, and One in Whitworth in September.

Careful enquiry and inspection failed to throw any light as to the source of infection in these cases, with the exception of one at Shawforth, which was clearly traced to defective drainage.

## DIARRHŒA.

Two deaths have been registered during the year. One, aged one month, at Shawforth, and One, aged 2 years, at Spring Cottages, Whitworth. Both cases were due to defective nutrition.

## ERYSIPELAS.

Fifteen cases have been notified during the year, and two deaths registered. Many of the cases were of a mild nature—in fact I should class them as “Erythema,”—but this of course is a matter of opinion.

## PHTHISIS.

It is a pleasure to note a marked diminution in the number of cases of this disease, seven deaths only having been registered during the year. The following table is interesting as showing the districts in which the disease has been most fatal since 1891.

	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Healey .....	2	4	1	2	2	1
Whitworth ...	10	8	3	6	6	1
Facit .....	6	5	4	4	5	3
Shawforth ..	2	2	2	1	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	20	19	10	13	14	7

## PNEUMONIA AND BRONCHITIS.

Thirty-seven deaths have been registered during the year—a decrease of 8 on the preceding year.

The following table gives the number of deaths since the year 1887:—

1887.....	45	1892 ....	40
1888.....	43	1893 ....	43
1889.....	44	1894.....	35
1890.....	40	1895 .....	45
1891 .....	95	1896 ..	37



## HEART DISEASE.

Caused 7 deaths—a decrease of 4 on the preceding year. For preceding years as under :

1887.....	6	1892.....	8
1888.....	14	1893.....	7
1889.....	11	1894.....	5
1890.....	12	1895.....	11
1891.....	8	1896 ..	7

## Systematic Inspection and Procedure.

I have made the usual general and special inspections of the district, and have attended the Monthly Committee and General Meetings, so as to cover the several recommendations of the several “Memoranda” issued by the Local Government Board.

## REMOVAL OF NIGHT SOIL.

Is at present continued on the “Pail System.” The Precipitation and Sewerage Works are almost completed.

## HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

It has not been necessary to use the temporary Hospital furnished last year for infectious cases. The beneficial advantage of “isolation” was so marked in the treatment of Small-pox that one is encouraged to hope that notification and isolation may ultimately considerably reduce the mortality of infectious diseases, and thereby be of great advantage to the public health

## COW SHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Farm buildings and utensils are generally all that could be desired, and I can state that in no case has milk been found to be the cause of infectious disease.

## ANALYSIS.

It has not been found necessary to undertake any analysis during the year.

## REPORT OF NUISANCE INSPECTOR.

FOR THE YEAR 1896.

The area of the district is 6,200.

The population in 1891 was 9,766.

There has not been much increase in the number of new houses in the district. Plans have been passed for 28, twelve of them have been occupied, and the others are in progress. As an experiment those finished have been fitted up with "Duckett's Waste Water Closets," and so far they have acted well, and given satisfaction. It has been possible to fix them on account of the new Sewerage Scheme which is now being carried out, and which is making steady progress. The house connection is the most important part of the work now to be finished, and this work is in hand. There has been a slight increase in the number of pail closets; some of the mills and workshops having adopted them in place of the old Tank System. We have now 1350, and 740 Ash places, all cleaned by workmen in the employ of the Council, by day work. Three horses and carts are regularly employed in this work and six men, with occasional assistance. The slaughter houses have been inspected. There have been few complaints of nuisances, and in every case the cause has been removed without legal proceedings. The Cottage Hospital has been kept in order ready for any emergency, but has not been required this year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER WELSH, M.D.



# TABLE OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1896,

—IN THE—

## WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

Classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics, public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																					
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards.	1	2	3	4	FEVERS.					10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
								Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	*	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	TOTAL.
HEALEY .....	26	8	3	2	2	7	4	Under 5											1					3			1	6	11
								5 upwds.															1	1	2			11	15
WHITWORTH .....	72	8	12	3	4	32	13	Under 5		3	1	1							3	1				5				6	20
								5 upwds.		2				2			1	1	1				1	14	2			28	52
FACIT .....	43	13	3	3	1	20	3	Under 5				1												2				13	16
								5 upwds.		2				1							1	3	3	2			1	14	27
SHAWFORTH.....	41	10	10	2	1	13	5	Under 5		1	1	5						1		2	1			4				5	20
								5 upwds.				1		1								2	5	1				11	21
TOTALS.....	182	39	28	10	8	72	25	Under 5		4	2	7						1		6	2			14			1	30	67
								5 upwds.		4		1		4			1	1	1			1	7	23	7		1	64	115

\* The heading of column 19 is left blank for the insertion of Influenza, or any other disease which it may be thought desirable to record.







